



## NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL-INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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### NEWS RELEASE

#### Public Affairs Office

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#### **Geospatial Intelligence Aids Hurricane Recovery Efforts**

**BETHESDA, Md.**—The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency's (NGA) preparation for Hurricane Katrina relief efforts began before the first waves hit shore. The Agency provided 100 graphics depicting the location of key infrastructures—major airports, hospitals, police and fire stations, emergency operations centers, hazardous material locations, highways, and schools—for the counties in the hurricane's path along the Gulf Coast. This is critical information for first responders.

NGA Director retired Air Force Lt. Gen. James R. Clapper Jr. said, "NGA is doing everything we can to support ongoing relief and recovery operations."

NGA is providing geospatial information about the affected areas based on imagery from commercial and U.S. government satellites, and from airborne platforms, to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and other government agencies.

Twenty-six analysts and two Mobile Integrated Geospatial-Intelligence Systems (MIGS) are deployed to the affected areas to provide expertise on the ground. The analysts provide on-the-spot support to U.S. government agencies also deployed to the region. They also "reach back" for additional support from the greater NGA community.

The MIGS, housed on high mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicles, provide specialized operations support products by merging imagery and intelligence data. They do this using computer work stations that enable analysts to provide tailored products on the go.

NGA analysts have created more than 200 tailored geospatial products in response to requests from U.S. government agencies. They depicted damage to transportation networks—what bridges are out, what roads are flooded, what airfields are open—to aid transport of relief supplies. Their graphics further provided a common operating picture for local and state government agencies, enabling them to more effectively work together.

NGA's World Wide Navigational Warning Service (WWNWS) radio desk transmitted navigation safety messages to the U.S. Navy and Merchant Marine about port closures and waterway conditions. The WWNWS is continuing to send out navigational warnings for the U.S. Coast Guard in the New Orleans area while they repair systems damaged by

the hurricane. In addition, the WNWWS is transmitting National Weather Service messages to mariners at sea, covering gaps in service due to local outages.

NGA is a Department of Defense combat support agency and a member of the National Intelligence Community. The Agency's mission is to provide timely, relevant and accurate geospatial intelligence—that shows what's where on the Earth—in support of our national security.